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Step wise implementation of the EFSA Guidance Document on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees)

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On 27 June 2013, the European Food Safety Authority adopted a Guidance Document on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees)¹ and re-published on 4 July 2014 (hereinafter, the 'EFSA Guidance Document'). This document provides Member States (MS) and applicants with guidance on how to assess the risks to honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees from exposure to pesticides.

In December 2013, a workshop of risk managers and risk assessors from MS concluded that the EFSA Guidance Document could not be used fully and immediately, because not all the scientific methodology was yet ready to be applicable in each area of the risk assessment. A step-wise implementation of the EFSA Guidance Document was proposed.

After further consultation with the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed and aiming at a harmonised and efficient implementation, the Commission notifies that the published EFSA Guidance Document on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees) is to be implemented as follows:

- 1) The chapters of the EFSA Guidance Document listed in Part A should be used for the assessment of applications for the approval or renewal of approval of active substances and for the assessment of applications for an authorisation or a renewal of authorisation of plant protection products for which a dossier is submitted after 30 June 2019 .
- 2) The chapters of the EFSA Guidance Document listed in Part B should be used for the assessment of applications for the approval or renewal of approval of active substances and for the assessment of applications for an authorisation or a renewal of authorisation of plant protection products for which a dossier is submitted according to the different deadlines included in the table.
- 3) Part C lists further actions proposed in order to allow for full implementation of the EFSA Guidance Document.

¹ European Food Safety Authority, 2013. EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees). EFSA Journal 2013;11(7):3295, 268 pp., doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3295 Available online: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal.

Field Code Changed

Part A

Parts of the EFSA guidance document to be used for applications submitted after **31 December 2019**

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HONEYBEES

<i>Screening step spray applications</i>	<i>Trigger value</i>	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Acute contact adults	HQ > 42 (downwards spray); HQ > 85 (upwards/sideways)	OECD Test Guideline 214	Chapter 3.2.1 Table 2
Acute oral adults	ETR > 0.2	OECD Test Guideline 213	Chapter 3.2.2 Table 3
Exposure from surface water	ETR _{acute} adults > 0.2;	Use highest PEC _{sw} from FOCUS step 1 or RAC for aquatic organisms.	Chapter 3.5.2
Exposure from puddle water	ETR _{acute} adults > 0.2;	Use run-off PEC values from FOCUS	Chapter 3.5.3
Exposure to plant metabolites			Chapter 3.6
<i>Screening step solid formulations</i>	<i>Trigger value</i>	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Acute contact adults	HQ > 14	OECD Test Guideline 214	Chapter 3.3.1 <i>f_{dep}</i> from Table H1b
Acute oral adults	ETR > 0.2	OECD Test Guideline 213	Chapter 3.3.2 Table 7

Exposure from surface water	ETR _{acute} adults > 0.2;	Use highest PEC _{sw} from FOCUS step 1 or RAC for aquatic organisms.	Chapter 3.5.2
Exposure from puddle water	ETR _{acute} adults > 0.2;	Use run-off PEC values from FOCUS	Chapter 3.5.3
Exposure to plant metabolites			Chapter 3.6
<i>Refined risk assessment for exposure via nectar and pollen following spray applications</i>	<i>Trigger value</i>	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Refined exposure estimates ETR _{acute} ; for all <u>relevant</u> scenarios	ETR _{acute} > 0.2	OECD Test Guideline 213	Chapter 3.2.2 Ef-values from tables X1a and X2a as appropriate for the relevant scenario SV-values from Tables Jx and Jy as appropriate for the relevant scenario
Consider risk mitigation measures Consider further refinement of exposure estimate			Chapter 9 Appendix S

Semi-field and field effects studies		Based on EPPO 2010 and OECD 2007 with further details as provided in Appendix O	Chapter 6.1.2 and Appendix O
<i>Refined risk assessment for contact exposure following spray application</i>	<i>Trigger value</i>	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Refined exposure estimate	HQ > 42 (downwards spray); HQ > 85 (upwards/sideways)	OECD Test Guideline 214	f_{dep} values from Table H1a and further guidance in Appendix H
Consider risk mitigation measures Consider further refinement of exposure estimate			Chapter 9 Appendix S
Semi-field and field effects studies		EPPO 2010 and OECD 2007 with further details as provided in Appendix O especially regarding the use of statistics and the number of colonies and fields needed.	Chapter 6.1.2 and Appendix O
<i>Refined risk assessment for exposure via nectar and pollen following seed treatment or granule application applications</i>	<i>Trigger value</i>	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Refined exposure estimates	ETR _{acute} > 0.2	OECD Test Guideline 213	Chapter 3.3.2 SV-values from Tables Jxx and Jyy as

ETR _{acute} ; for all relevant scenarios			appropriate for the relevant scenario Ef values from Table X1c
Consider risk mitigation measures Consider further refinement of exposure estimate			Chapter 9 Appendix S
Semi-field and field effects studies		EPPO 2010 and OECD 2007 with further details as provided in Appendix O especially regarding the use of statistics and the number of colonies and fields needed.	Chapter 6.1.2 and Appendix O
<i>Refined risk assessment for contact exposure following seed treatment or granule application</i>	<i>Trigger value</i>	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Refined exposure estimate	HQ >14	OECD Test Guideline 214	Chapter 3.3.2 Ef-values from Table X1b SV-values from Table Jxx
Consider risk mitigation measures Consider further refinement of exposure estimate			Chapter 9 Appendix S

Semi-field and field effects studies		EPPO 2010 and OECD 2007 with further details as provided in Appendix O especially regarding the use of statistics and the number of colonies and fields needed.	Chapter 6.1.2 and Appendix O

Part B

Parts of the EFSA guidance document **to be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.**

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HONEYBEES

	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Chronic adults	OECD Test Guideline 245	To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.	Chapter 3.2.2 Table 3 Chapter 3.3.2 Table 7 Chapter 3.5.2 Chapter 3.5.3
Larvae	OECD Guidance Document 239	To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.	Ef-values from tables X1a and X2a as appropriate for the relevant scenario SV-values from Tables
Exposure from surface water (chronic risk)	Use highest PEC_{sw} from FOCUS step 1 or RAC for aquatic organisms.	To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.	Jx and Jy as appropriate for the relevant scenario Ef values from Table X1c

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	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Exposure from puddle water (chronic risk)	Use run-off PEC values from FOCUS	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.</u>	Chapter 9 Appendix S
			Chapter 6.1.2 and Appendix O
Accumulative risk assessment	Research still ongoing No protocols yet available	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	Chapter 8
Repeated exposure laboratory test on larval development beyond pupation of honeybees	No protocols yet available	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	
Screening step for assessment of exposure to residues in honeydew	No protocols yet available	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	Chapter 3 and Chapter 9
Exposure from guttation fluid	More information is needed on which crops and under what circumstances guttation droplets are produced and to what extent guttation droplets are used as a water source	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.</u>	Chapter 3.5.1
Extrapolation rules for residue trials	[to be verified if necessary to maintain this line]	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a</u>	

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	<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
(minor crops, north-south, etc.)		further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.	
Sublethal effects, HPG and other methods to address physiological effects, and effects on homing flight	More information is needed No protocols yet available	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	Appendix W
Risk from exposure to residues in succeeding crops	No protocols yet available	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	
Development of landscape-level exposure assessment criteria/methods	No protocols yet available	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	Chapter 5.1.5

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BUMBLEBEES

<i>Screening step spray applications</i>		<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance</i>

				<i>Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Acute oral adults		OECD Test Guideline 247	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u>	Chapter 3.2.2 Table 3 8.2.1.1 Appendix P
Acute contact adults		OECD Test Guideline 246	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u>	Chapter 3.2.1 Table 2
<i>Screening step solid formulations</i>		<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>

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Acute oral adults		OECD Test Guideline 247	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u> ▼	Chapter 3.3.2. Table 7
Acute contact adults		OECD Test Guideline 246	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u> ▼	Chapter 3.3.1 <i>f_{dep}</i> from Table H1b
		<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Chronic toxicity		No protocols yet available	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission</u>	Chapter 6.2.1

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			<u>Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u>	
Risk to larvae		No protocols yet available	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u>	Chapter 6.2.1
Higher tier studies			<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u>	

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Study with micro-colonies			To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees ▼	Chapter 6.2.2 and Appendix P (with possibility for applicants to modify)
Semi-field and combined field-to-laboratory tests			To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees ▼	Chapter 6.2.2 and Appendix P (with possibility for applicants to modify)

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SOLITARY BEES

		<i>Guideline/test protocol</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Reference to the EFSA Guidance Document of 4 July 2014</i>
Acute contact		A ring test is currently and the test itself is ready to be implemented. However lack of guidance for higher tier testing.	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	Chapter 6.3.1
Acute oral		A ring-test is currently ongoing but more work is needed regarding feeding of Osmia with a specific amount of food.	To be used for applications submitted 1 year after availability of internationally agreed protocols	Chapter 6.3.1
Chronic toxicity		No protocols yet available.	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees</u> ▼	Chapter 6.3.1

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Risk to larvae		No protocols yet available.	<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.</u>	Chapter 6.3.2.1
Semi-field and field test			<u>To be used for applications submitted at a date to be specified in a further Commission Notice on the implementation of a revised EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment for bees.</u>	Chapter 6.3.2.2 and 6.3.2.3

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Part C

Further actions proposed in order to allow for full implementation of the EFSA Guidance Document.

- A review of the Guidance Document based on new scientific information and data.
- Reconsideration of background mortality and trigger values.
- Validation (cross-check) by using available higher tier data whether the level of conservatism introduced with current trigger values seems appropriate for different toxicity tests and exposure routes.
- Detailed definition of protection goals for bumble bees and solitary bees.
- Development of the following test:
 - Chronic oral toxicity test with bumble bees.
 - Larval toxicity test with bumble bees.
 - Accumulative toxicity risk assessment for bumble bees.
 - Field tests with bumble bees.
 - Chronic oral toxicity test with solitary bees.
 - Larval toxicity test with solitary bees.
 - Accumulative toxicity risk assessment for solitary bees.